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Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" With reference to the answer to clause (e), it is stated that the matter is under consideration. I want to know whether it is under the sympathetic or unsympathetic consideration ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" It is too early to say. "

Hydro-Electric Schemes

Grant of licence to Messrs. Crompton Parkinson, Limited.

* 382 Q.—Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state in reference to the reproduction of notifications regarding grant of licence to Messrs. Crompton Parkinson, Limited, at page 1334, Part I, *Fort St. George Gazette* of July 9, 1929—

(a) the circumstances under which an advertisement was published in the *Madras Mail*, dated 18th June 1929 ;

(b) whether the advertisement was published in any Indian-owned paper and if not, why it was not so published ;

(c) whether the municipalities of Ellore and Guntur were consulted before the advertisement was issued regarding the licence ; and what opinions they expressed thereon ; and

(d) whether any other individual or company applied for licence in regard to these towns and why they were not chosen ?

A.—(a) Under rule 13 of the rules under the Indian Electricity Act, an applicant for a licence has to publish notice of his application by public advertisement in a newspaper published or circulated in the proposed area of supply.

(b) The applicant is not required to publish such advertisement in more than one newspaper.

(c) The rules do not require an applicant to consult municipal councils before advertising his application.

(d) Messrs. Chari and Chari, Limited, have applied for a licence for the supply of electrical energy to Guntur. No licence has yet been granted to anybody.

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know from the hon. the Law Member whether Government consulted the municipalities before publishing the advertisements in the *Fort St. George Gazette* ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" The Government are not bound to consult them. There is no provision in law to consult them. When it is published in the Gazette or in the newspapers, it is for the bodies or individuals concerned to come up to Government with their objections, if any. "

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know if the Government did not consider it desirable in cases like this to give municipalities the first chance and take their opinion ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" They are expected to read the Gazette and newspapers and, if they find objection, they will certainly bring it to the notice of Government."

Mr. P. C. VENKATAPATI RAJU :—" May I know whether there is any provision in law to prevent them from consulting the municipalities ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" That is asking for an opinion."

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Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I know from the hon. the Law Member whether Government propose to formulate any precedence of order of tenders in regard to municipalities ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" No."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I know whether the hon. the Law Member will consider the desirability of establishing such precedence in the matter of giving licences for electrical works ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" I am afraid it is not possible. It all depends upon the capacity of the tenderers to do what is stated in their tenders."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" I really want to know from the hon. the Law Member whether he will consider the desirability of establishing such an order, provided all things are equal ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" That is exactly what I said. I am not in a position to say more."

Mr. P. Anjaneyulu :—" May I know from the hon. the Law Member whether in this particular case the Guntur municipality has not come forward with suggestions supporting the claim of Messrs. Chari & Chari ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" Not as far as I am aware."

Mr. P. Anjaneyulu :—" Supposing what I say is correct, will the Government be pleased to take the suggestion of the Guntur municipality into consideration and accord sanction to their wishes ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" The suggestion will certainly be considered."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I know if the hon. the Law Member is aware that Government has been following in other matters the policy of Swadeshi, that is, giving preference to local talent ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" As far as possible."

Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao :—" May I know whether the applicant has obtained the permission of Government before publishing his licence in the *Madras Mail* ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" No. He is not bound to do so."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I know if the hon. the Law Member is prepared to exercise that amount of patronage for Indian things as obtains in other departments in this case also ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" Oh, yes. I shall certainly sympathetically consider applications from Indian firms or bodies."

Mr. P. Anjaneyulu :—" In this particular case of the Guntur municipality, may I know whether the hon. the Law Member addressed himself to the conditions of Chari & Chari and compared them with the conditions of other firms to find out which are preferable ? "

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The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"No, that stage has not been reached."

Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao :—"May I know whether these applications have been sent for the opinion of the Electrical Inspector to Government ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"Notice, Sir."

Jails

Prisoners admitted in the special division.

*383 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. Swami : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) when the special division of prisoners was formed ; and

(b) the number of convicted persons that were placed in the special division in each of the years since the same was formed ?

A.—(a) The special division for prisoners was formed in 1922.

(b) In 1923, seven prisoners were placed in the special division and none in the previous or subsequent years.

Mr. K. V. R. Swami :—"May I know whether any persons answering the descriptions and qualifications required to be placed in the special division have been convicted since 1923 ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar .—"I cannot say now, but I want notice."

Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu :—"May I know from the hon. the Law Member, what are the conditions which would enable a man to be placed in the special division ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"His status in life, his education, the conditions under which he was brought up and his request for special convenience.

Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu :—"May I know from the hon. the Law Member that, if a request is made by a person to a magistrate and if the magistrate refuses, whether the Government will be in a position to reconsider the case ?"

The hon. the President :—"That is a hypothetical question."

Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao :—"May I know what offences were committed by these seven prisoners who are placed in the special division ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"Notice, Sir."

Mr. K. V. R. Swami :—"May I know whether any persons convicted were recommended by the courts to be placed in the special division after 1923 ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"Apparently not."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—"May I know whether the hon. the Law Member has enquired why the conditions of the 'special class' have not been liberally used, because I see from 1923 onwards there was no special prisoner at all ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"No."